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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the contents of claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 10 has been amended to composite material comprising the coated glass fiber according to claim 6.

New claims 11 and 12 have been entered in the application.

No new matter has been entered by way of amendment to the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph because the language of "combining" does not provide a clear positive recitation of method steps. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection.

As used in the specification and the claims, combining is a broad term directed to forming an article containing the synthetic fiber and the coated glass fiber. Combining generally covers the known methods of providing an article containing both synthetic fibers and coated glass fibers.

As one skilled in the art would understand, the synthetic fibers could be in the form of staple fibers and the glass fibers are combined by a spinning operation. Synthetic fibers could be reinforced by the coated glass fibers by combining them in a process by which a

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nonwoven fabric is formed. The nonwoven fabric article could be further reinforced by needle punching, water jet piercing and the like. If the synthetic fiber and the coated glass fiber were in the form of a monofilament, the monofilament synthetic fiber and the monofilament coated glass fiber could be twisted to form a reinforced synthetic fiber. Alternatively, the synthetic fibers and the resin coated glass fibers could be individually spun and utilized to weave an article using the resin coated glass fibers as part of the warp of the woven article.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 112 be reconsidered and withdrawn since combining the synthetic fiber and the coated glass fiber would be well known to one skilled in the art.

Claim 10 has been amended to a composite material comprising the coated glass fiber of claim 6. Applicants submit that the amendment overcomes the Examiner's objection to the claims under 35 USC 112.

Before discussing the rejections over the prior art, Applicants deem it prudent to set forth what they consider to be their invention. The invention as presently claimed is a method of coating a glass substrate and a coated glass fiber. The method comprises applying to the glass substrate a coating composition comprising:

(1) from 1% to 98% by weight of a solventless, epoxy resin, reaction product of epichlorohydrin and at least one component selected from the group consisting of bisphenol A and bisphenol F, which reaction product is liquid at 20°C;

(2) from 1% to 98% by weight of a water-dilutable epoxy resin hardener,

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(3) from 1% to 98% by weight of water, and

(4) optionally, additives; and curing the coating composition.

The epoxy resin is solventless, in that it does not contain any volatile materials which are not reacted during curing of the resin and the resin is a liquid at 20°C. The resin is mixed with a hardener, water and optionally, additives. The mixture is applied to a glass substrate and cured. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Flynn (US 3,901,833). Applicants respectfully submit that Flynn neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

Flynn differs from the present invention in that a solution of the epoxy resin and the hardener in an organic solvent is applied to the substrate. Flynn is directed to a method for applying the mixture of the solution of the resin and hardener to a glass substrate and removing the volatile solvent without substantially affecting the free epoxide groups in the composition. The resin is subsequently hardened by heating the coated fibers to an elevated temperature.

Applicants respectfully submit that Flynn neither teaches nor suggests a solventless, epoxy resin which is a liquid at 20°C and application of the epoxy resin to a glass substrate without the addition of a solvent.

In addition, Flynn requires that the resin applied to the glass fibers be cured at an elevated temperature. In the present invention, as shown in the examples, the resin can

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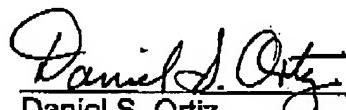
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be cured at ambient temperatures.

Applicants respectfully submit that Flynn does not disclose each and every limitation in the claims and therefore a rejection under 35 USC 102(b) over Flynn is untenable and request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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